

Grammar Spotlight- Colons and Semi Colons

Colons look like this- : No, it is not only used to make smiley faces!

1. Use a colon to set off words in a list IF there is long pause before the list.

Correct: Bring the following items to school tomorrow : (BIG PAUSE) pencils, rulers, and paper.

Correct: For the trip, you need to purchase these things: a backpack, a tent, a sleeping bag, and a tarp.

Incorrect: My sister wanted: a furbie, a pillow pet, and a DS for Christmas.

Correct: My sister wanted a furbie, a pillow pet, and a DS for Christmas.

2. Use a colon when writing the time.

10:15 A.M. 3:27 p.m.

3. Use a colon after the salutation in a business, formal letter.

Dear Mayor Smith: Dear Mrs. Obama:

4. Use a colon to set off an important idea.

Directions: Write the correct answer

Semicolons look like ; they aren't just used for making winking emojis!

1. Use a semicolon to join a compound sentence IF you don't use a comma or conjunction.

Correct: I went to the store; it was closed.

Correct: Freedom is important; we forget this.

Incorrect: Last night, I watched "The Voice"; and it was interesting!

Practice: Add commas, semicolons, and colons as necessary!

- 1. Don't send me the letter deliver it please!**
- 2. Before our government existed people relied on the British this however wouldn't last for long.**
- 3. At our garage sale we sold several valuable items including a Pez dispenser a used cat litter box and three unused diapers.**
- 4. During the test you will need to know the following concepts erosion chemical weathering and chronic halitosis.**
- 5. The use of a fog machine was approved but at 1037 the fire alarm was set off.**
- 6. Listen I have given you what you need a compass a map a whistle and a first-aid kit don't get lost or injured.**
- 7. The Four Diamonds stand for wonderful attributes strength wisdom courage and honesty Christopher Millard was a talented inspiring young man who used these qualities in his struggle with cancer.**
- 8. I didn't read the sign that said "Warning keep out" as a result I fell down a mineshaft that was very very deep.**
- 9. Later in the day Mr. Truex was tired and sore he shouldn't have benched 250 lbs for 25 reps.**
- 10. Sing us a song Mr. Piano man sing us a song tonight for we're all in the mood for a melody and you've got us feeling alright.**

Answers:

- 1. Don't send me the letter; deliver it, please!**
- 2. Before our government existed, people relied on the British; this, however, wouldn't last for long.**
- 3. At our garage sale, we sold several valuable items, including a Pez dispenser, a used cat litter box, and three unused diapers.**
- 4. During the test, you will need to know the following concepts: erosion, chemical weathering, and chronic halitosis.**
- 5. The use of a fog machine was approved, but at 10:37, the fire alarm was set off.**
- 6. Listen, I have given you what you need: a compass, a map, a whistle, and a first-aid kit; don't get lost or injured!**
- 7. The Four Diamonds stand for wonderful attributes: strength, wisdom, courage, and honesty; Christopher Millard was a talented, inspiring young man who used these qualities in his struggle with cancer.**
- 8. I didn't read the sign that said "Warning: Keep Out"; as a result, I fell down a mineshaft that was very, very deep.**
- 9. Later in the day, Mr. Truex was tired and sore; he shouldn't have benched 250 lbs. for 25 reps.**
- 10. Sing us a song, Mr. Piano man; sing us a song tonight. For we're all in the mood for a melody, and you've got us feeling alright.**